

ARLINGTON CULTURAL COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES – December 12, 2013

Present: David Ardito, Roly Chaput, Barbara Costa, Nora Mann, Stephanie Marlin-Curiel, Adria Arch

ITEM I: Goals for the Coming Year

Short Term Goal:

Report to the Selectmen. To include accomplishments:

- Finalized Public Art Commissioning and Decommissioning policy
- Arts and Culture Liaison Job Description
- Online Arts and Culture Calendar

We may add an acknowledgement about the Selectmen's interest in buskers and grappled with whether or not it is our role to develop a new bylaw pertaining to buskers. We surmised that it is probably not, but are open to exploring the issue further, and could try to come up with ten questions.

Longer Term Goals:

In order to figure out our Goals for the coming year, we looked at the goals from Arlington Alive meeting in June 2011. Arlington Alive was an elaboration of the Arlington Cultural Council's tri-annual community input initiative. The goal of the meeting was to explore how to build collaboration amongst the cultural organizations in town, expand cultural opportunities, and make Arlington a cultural destination.

Out of that meeting came three goals for the future toward the end of making Arlington a cultural destination:

- A centralized leadership body; i.e. Cultural Commission
- A centralized communication mechanism; i.e. website, to talk about Arlington's cultural scene to its residents and potential visitors. A discussion of branding Arlington's cultural scene in order to give it punch and recognition was important to the development of this outcome.
- A large signature event to put Arlington on the Cultural map and that could become part of Arlington's cultural identity

One goal for the Arlington Cultural Commission might be to have a well-developed, attractive, branded website in twelve months. Arlington Alive is a possible brand. We would need a minimum of \$20,000. All the orgs would contribute.

We had a lot of people at the Oct 3rd meeting of cultural orgs.  
How do we take that energy, and channel it into the three goals?

A second goal is to come up with a strategic plan for arts and culture

We would bring to the table people on the master planning committee who are doing the culture part and work with them to flesh out the cultural sections of the master plan

Action: Barbara will find out who is the team leader on the arts and culture part of the master plan and what is their next step,

By our next meeting we want a recommendation on what to do to get involved

How would we structure raising our profile and working on our goals?

- 1) Decommissioning policy
- 2) Inventory of public art
- 3) Quarterly arts meeting
- 4) Attend arts events as Commission representatives

#### ITEM II: Approval of Minutes

Minutes from October and November were approved.

We will approve September and December minutes in January

#### ITEM III: Job Description for Arts and Culture Liaison

Approved by the Committee

Actions:

Adria will post on hireculture.org

Adria and Dave will be on the interviewing team

Nora will talk to Adam to ask whether we need to go to BOS on it before posting

Adria will send a copy to Adam so Nora can talk to him about it

We would like for applications to be processed through the personnel dept of the Town

#### ITEM IV: Decommissioning Policy

Once finalized, we will ask the BOS to adopt the policy regarding public art on public property

For private property we will recommend that artists and business owners discuss terms according to this policy

Action: Stephanie look into what other municipalities do, talk to Nora, and draft a template for parties to fill in should they wish their terms to be in writing (recommended)

The template will include:

Name of Town

Description and location where work is to be installed

Duration of the installation (temporary or permanent)

Designee responsible for maintenance

Designee responsible for insurance

This policy is in place to avoid art disappearing without a process

Therefore we ask the Town/Business owner to not change or remove the art unless [xyz] and if the art is to be removed before the agreed upon date, that the town follow this process:

Communicate with the artist(s) and stakeholders by giving public notice in local media, direct written communication to the artist 60/90 days prior to removal, and an open meeting notice to the Arlington Cultural Commission and Arlington Public Art.

**ITEM V: 7<sup>th</sup> Board Member**

Karla Dorato from Artful Heart is interested in joining the Cultural Commission

**ITEM VI: Mission Statement**

Here is our Mission statement as it now stands:

*The mission of the Arlington Cultural Commission is to serve as a vocal and visible advocate for arts and culture in Arlington and advise the Board of Selectmen regarding all matters of a cultural or artistic nature in the town.*

**ITEM VII: New Business**

There is a potential new incubation space for artists in the building where North Bennett Street School was on Lowell Street, on bike path. Looking for more artists. Spread the word! Adria sending out contact info.

**ITEM VIII: Next Meeting**

Jan 2, 7:30 in the Senior Center

**Agenda:**

Meshing goals of master plan with our goals

Next steps on Arts and Culture Liaison

Finalizing Decommissioning Policy

Get on the BOS Agenda

Action: Nora will find out when we can get on the BOS agenda

Set agenda for next meeting of Arts and Culture orgs

Look at the coming year

Adjourned 9:31pm

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Marlin-Curiel, Recording Secretary